

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

MARVEL

PSR 81 496

AUSTIN
COIPEL
LANNING

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST

HEROES

AVENGERS



**LIONHEART OF
AVALON** PART
1 of 6

DIRECT EDITION



08111

7 59606*04458 0

\$2.25 US \$3.25 CAN

Scott
Kolins '03



How did she get the scar, Mrs. Shorr?

She, em --



She, was -- attacked -- em, and she -- eh, fought back.

Her attacker did that to her because she hurt him.



And her husband? The children's father?

What happened to him?

He was present during the incident which scared her, and did nothing to stop it.

The guilt over his inaction ended the marriage. Now, that's at least *three* questions, Mister America, and I said you could ask *one*.



Yes you did, Mrs. Shorr. My apologies. I didn't mean to pry.



I simply couldn't help noticing the walker, and no other photos of any other family members.

That, and a few other things around the house all lead me to wonder --



Will you be able to take care of yourself, let alone two children -- without Kelsey's income and support?





THE WASP
Janet Van Dyne
Size-Changing Heroine



CAPTAIN AMERICA
Steve Rogers
Living Legend of World War II



HAWKEYE
Clint Barton
Marksman Extraordinaire



SCARLET WITCH
Wanda Maximoff
Mutant Mistress of Probability



IRON MAN
Tony Stark
The Armored Avenger



CAPTAIN BRITAIN
Kelsey Leigh
Protector of Avalon

Caught in a conflict between the Avengers and the Wrecking Crew, British citizen Kelsey Leigh died while bravely defending herself in battle. But her time was not yet over.

Kelsey rose to meet an otherworldly manifestation of Brian Braddock, the former Captain Britain. By choosing a sword over an amulet, Kelsey unwittingly took on Captain Britain's powers and identity. She must return to her own world to protect the land, but is forbidden to identify herself to her grieving children.

Meanwhile, the Wasp tried to reclaim the Avengers' Quinjet from the Wrecking Crew's hands, and brought them all crashing into a residential area.

Returning to her world, the new Captain Britain confronted Thunderball for taking her mortal life—only to witness him transform into the Black Knight with the help of his master, Morgan Le Fay.



S T A N L E E P R E S E N T S :

EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES THE **AVENGERS** "LIONHEART OF AVALON" part 5

CHUCK AUSTEN writer • OLIVIER COIPEL penciler • ANDY LANNING inker
RS & COMICRAFT'S ALBERT DESCHESNE letters • CHRIS SOTOMAYOR colors
ANDY SCHMIDT & NICOLE WILEY assistant editors • TOM BREYVOORT editor
JOE QUESADA editor in chief • DAN BUCKLEY publisher

Avengers (ISSN #0274-5240) No. 81, June, 2004. Published Monthly except semi-monthly in January, February, April, July and October by MARVEL COMICS, a division of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 10 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10016. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. © 2004 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, places, incidents or events in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$2.25 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) in the direct market and \$2.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$4.25 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand. Canadian Agreement #06060002. Printed in the USA. Subscription rate: \$15 U.S. dollars for 12 issues. U.S. \$27.00. Canada \$37.00. FOREIGN \$37.00. POSTMASTER: SEND ALL ADDRESS CHANGES TO Avengers, C/O MARVEL SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., P.O. BOX 32 NEWBURGH, NY 12551. TELEPHONE # (800) 272-9156. FAX # (845) 366-7839. Subscriptions/Reprint: GAIL ALLEN LIPSON, Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, AVI ARAD, Chief Creative Officer, GUY KARYO, President of Publishing and CIO, DAVID BIRBAUM, Managing Editor, STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Russell Brown, Executive Vice President, Consumer Products, Promotions and Media Sales at (rbrown@marvel.com or 212-512-6561).



Can someone
call an ambulance,
please?

One's
been rung!



I am
sooo glad
I didn't land
on you.

My name's
Janet Van Dyne.
What's yours?

Malcolm
Pritchett. And
that was
awesome!

I'm
Melanie.

Nice to
meet you
both.



How's Clint?

Breathing.
Can you put the Quinjet aside gently, then slowly and carefully reduce your size please, Jan?



Oh, *now*. Are you saying I'm a klutz with these new powers, Tony?

Which isn't polite just because it's true, you know.

I would never accuse so lovely a lady of any such thing.

Excuse me?

When you're done with your friend there, me mate's trapped in some rubble.

Can you lot give us a hand?



Are you all right?

Ah, I'm fine.

I reckon this is what I get for enjoying the dole and watching telly when I shoulda been out scarin' up work, yeah?



Jan? Is it too soon for you to shrink down and get in under this debris?

Maybe find and move whatever's pinching on him?

RRRIIN

AAAH!

You're worried I'll faint again?



Yes. Or worse.

Well, that's what makes this an adventure, isn't it?

Wish me luck.

Aaaaaah!

SZZKAAAM



Who is this woman, my knight?

I have no idea!



SZZKAAAM

Stop hitting him!

You're killing him!



Good!

THUD

WHUMP

KERLANK

TACKLE





WHY
ARE YOU ALL
JUST STANDING
AROUND?!

KILL
THEM!

Kelsey...?



YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO
MADE ME
CHOOSE!

The portal --



CHOOSE BETWEEN
THE SWORD AND MY
CHILDREN!



Kelsey,
you weren't
supposed to come
here!



AAAAH!!

SHUCK



Miserable
little *WITCH*!

You can't
prevent me
from --

HRK!



Nothing's happening.

England remains inviolate.



You are Brian Braddock, Captain Britain. Lionheart of Avalon.

Your power and your being are derived from the energy and the will of the people and the lands of England.

I know I divined this correctly. Injuring you should injure the land.



Killing you must *destroy all of England*, and Thor's arrows should have accomplished that --

-- *freeing the power of Avalon to enter me!*

What do you mean, "all of England?"

So Thor provided these arrows. I wondered why they hurt so much.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "ALL OF ENGLAND?"



It seems your Tarot reading was *wrong*, milady. But feel free to continue trying, if that's what it takes to prove you wrong.

Though I'd appreciate it if your aim were a tad improved.



Even gods and heroes suffer the thought of a slow and painful death.

No.



No, something is not right here.



You foresaw my coming, didn't you? To kill you here in Otherworld?

You still have the powers of a god, but not the power of England.

He called to her, and she wears the colors.

You're grasping at straws, woman! It's ME you want!

I AM CAPTAIN BRITAIN!

Allow me, milady.



'T WILL BE A PLEASURE TO SERVE!



AAAAAAH!

No!







Aaaaah.
Excellent.
I divined
correctly.

Already I
can feel the
power of Avalon
flowing into
me.

YOU
WILL PAY
FOR THIS!

Are
you all
right?

You
called me
Kelsey.

That's
what *he* called
you.

She
said all of
England, Scarlet
Witch.

We won't
let anything
happen to you--
or them.

I have
children there,
Jenny, and
Martin--

I kept
Morgan's portal
open when we
arrived, and
through it--

Nooooo--

Killing
you serves
two purposes,
now--



My powers may not be stopping you, knight--but you'll still have to go through me to harm this woman again!



HNHN!

No clever quotes to beat women by this time, misogynist?



LE FEY'S SORCERY IS **BLOCKING** YOUR POWERS, WANDA! BUT, SOMEHOW YOU MUST PROTECT KELSEY!



IF MORGAN KILLS KELSEY, ALL OF ENGLAND DIES WITH HER!



I could be persuaded to come up with a line or two.



"Lay her in the earth, and from her fair and unpolluted flesh may violets spring."

But first I'm going to make you hurt--



--the same way ~~you~~ hurt me.



--the same way you hurt me.

You were trying to rape me. I think I was entitled.



You'll wish you'd let me finish what I started when I'm done with you.



Oh, please, somebody help me!
RICHARD, PLEASE HELP ME!



Richard's staying right where he is, aren't you, Richard?

Because Richard's smart.

Richard's afraid of me.



So just lie there and take it, darlin'--



--'cause ain't no one gonna help you now.



CHANG



CHUFF



AAH!

CAPTAIN!

Those arrows
were made by Thor,
and that sword
she's got--

Look, just grab
the Scarlet Witch
and get away! There's
no point in all
of you--

We
don't leave
anyone.

Stay back!
I know what
I'm doing!

If you
knew what you
were doing, you
wouldn't have
been shot!

CLANG

You won't
reach the lady
while I live,
Morgan.

Oh,
crickey! Listen,
mate --

-- JUST
HIT THE
WITCH!

AAAH!

FWAAHSSK

You killed
her?

I hope
so.

That
makes two
of us.

You've done
your homeland--and
your mentor--quite
proud--

SSZZSHOOOM

--Captain
Britain--

A hundred
and fifty people
dead. Just
like that.

We freed
Braddock and he returned
us to England before we
could ask questions, with
another warning about
my children.

So you
understand why
I still can't reveal
myself to them?

Of
course I
do, Kel --

-- I mean,
Captain Britain.
I won't even
tell the other
Avengers.

In the
meantime, Cap,
She-Hulk and I
convinced
Tony to bring
your --

-- to bring
the *Leigh* family
here to live in the
mansion on the pretext
of their needing support
after your heroic
sacrifice.

So at
least you
can be near
them.

Come to
think of it, maybe
I should tell Jan about
you as well, if you
don't mind.

She's nearly as wealthy as
Tony, and then we wouldn't
have to keep going through him,
if something unexpected
came up.

I don't mind,
as long as she can keep
a secret. My children's lives
are too important to me.

Oh, Jan
can keep a
secret.

She's
even kept a
few she probably
shouldn't
have.

How is she doing, by the
way? I heard she collapsed
after saving a man trapped
under some rubble.

Hank says
she'll be fine, and
she'll eventually
adapt to size changing.

She and
Clint are both in
the infirmary.
I should go by, to
practice my healing
hexes on them.

Thank you so
much for everything,
Wanda.

You're very
welcome,
Kelsey.

I have to believe you'll
be able to tell Martin
and Jenny the truth,
someday.

If there's one thing I've
learned super heroing,
it's to expect the
unexpected, and
never give up
hope.

If you
ever need to
talk, I'm three
rooms away.







DCP Presents A JPLAPPO SCAN

